The above projects are reported to be under implementation. The SEZ scheme does not envisage any Central assistance for setting up of new Special Economic Zones.

Economic cooperation with EU

2972. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the European Union (EU) proposes to upgrade economic cooperation with India at par with China;

(b) whether the EU has asked India that it should try to remove the bureaucratic hurdle coming in the way of foreign investment in out country; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of Government to remove red tape in bureauracy to attract large investment from EU countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) European Union (EU) has upgraded its relationship with India by including it in the select group of six countries with whom EU has Strategic Partnership, the other countries being USA, Russia, China, Japan and Canada.

(b) and (c) In the 5th India-EU Summit held on 8 November, 2004, at the Hague, the Nethelands, the European Union (EU) welcomed the abiding commitment of the Indian Government to economic reforms for stimulating growth, investment and employment. While the EU has not referred to any specific issues affecting the flow of foreign investment to India, India and the EU have agreed to intensify cooperation and take action to facilitate and expand bilateral trade and investment flows. FDI Policy and associated procedures are reviewed on a continuing basis with a view to attract investments.

Formulation of strategies for promoting Indian goods

2973. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted five working groups and three

special study groups to formulate strategies for promoting Indian goods and services in specific sectors;

(b) if so, whether these panels would submit their recommendations to the recently reconstituted Board of Trade; and

(c) what will be the main objects of these panels and to what extent it will be helpful of improving the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) In the meeting of Board of Trade on 17th June, 2005, it has been decided to set up 5 working groups and 4 special study groups on specified areas of Indian exports.

The Working Groups are:—

Group One—Working Group on 'Evaluation of Different Export Promotion Schemes'

Group Two—Working Group on Trade Facilitation'

Group Three—Working Group on 'Manufacturing Sector'

Group Four—Working Group on 'Indentifying specific sectors and strategies having compai ative advantage'

Group Five—Working Group on 'SEZs and EOUs"

The Study Groups are:—

Group One—Sectoral Study on Textiles

Group Two—Sectoral Study on Pharmaceuticals

Group Three—Sectoral Study on Chemicals and allied sectors

Group Four—Impact of RTAs/FTAs on Indian industry/exports.

(c) These groups have been set up to help achieve the desired objective of boosting India's exports. The details main objectives and terms of reference are available at the DGFT website at *http://nic.in/eximpol*.